(c) For the protection of SSI units, the Government can, if the situation so warrants, utilise the mechanisms available in the WTO, such as anti-dumping action, countervailing duties and safeguard action. Further, the Government can also consider raising the tarriffs against those items where applied rates are less than the bound rates.

The Government has also put in place serveral measures to help small enterprises become globally competitive, such as technology upgradation (quality upgradation, energy conservation, pollution control, process modifications), infrastructural assistance, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure and other information technology applications, timely dissemination of information including sensitisation of small industries to the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation.

Restoration of Generalised System of Preferences by US

2458. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the United States is likely to restore soon the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) benefits to some Indian products including agro-chemicals and pharma products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the benefits of GSP are likely to be restored ; and

(c) whether any formal agreement to this effect was signed between India and U.S.A. during President Clinton's visit last month ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) of United States of America (USA) is a unilateral scheme under which the notified goods when imported into USA from developing countries, including India, receive preferential tariff treatment. Exports of agro-chemicals and pharmaceutical products from India are presently not covered under the GSP Scheme of the United States. Review of the items which are covered under the Scheme is done generally in June every year.

(c) No, Sir.